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RICHMOND, VA., MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1910.

THE WEATHER TO-DAY: CLOUDY.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

HIGHEST RECORD IN PRICE OF FOOD HAS BEEN REACHED

Cost of Living Now
Greater Than Ever
Before.

NATION AROUSED TO DRASTIC ACTION

Boycott Proving Effectual
and Gaining Strength in Every
Direction—People Rapidly
Awakening to National
Peril of Exorbitant
Prices of Necessities.

"Revolutions have been started by less than the American people are suffering now," says Senator Joseph L. Bristow, of Kansas. "Meat foots up to a quarter of the average household expense, and it ought to be cheaper to-day instead of dearer than it was twenty-five years ago, because of the greater economy in its preparation and sale. When I was a boy, 25 per cent. of the carcasses went to waste. Now, nothing goes to waste—not even the blood."

Senator Bristow's words, crystallized the sentiment of protest in all parts of the country against the higher cost of living. Thus far the movement, which first took form in an actual boycott at Cleveland, has met with most success in the West. The East has been slower to follow, influenced, perhaps, by a widespread feeling among small dealers and in the labor unions, that a universal boycott, though effective as a protest, would actually play into the hands of the packers, who, with their control of cold storage houses and refrigerator lines, could carry their product through a prolonged boycott, whereas even thirty days' cessation of trade would put the small independents out of business.

What the scattered and sporadic boycotts all over the country and the universal protest have done, however, is to focus the attention of the nation upon the necessity for economy. The most serious warnings have been sounded on this subject by economists, statisticians and business men without bringing the truth home to the people, as has their sudden realization of its application in one particular. President W. C. Brown, of the New York Central lines, said in a recent address:

"The most portentous cloud upon the economic horizon is the steady, relentless increase in prices of everything that goes to make up the cost of living."

Professor E. R. Aschmann, of Columbia, says:

"The situation is really so serious that the government should awaken to it."

James J. Hill has said that unless more economical methods of farming are devised, the nation in another generation will be importing its food supplies.

Such men as these hope that the present national awakening will not exhaust itself on one particular phase of a national peril.

HIGH RECORD REACHED.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
New York, January 23.—Bradstreet's has compiled a record of prices of ninety-six commodities that enter into daily and direct consumption by the people, and the result shows that the cost of living has now reached an absolutely high record, exceeding even that of March 1, 1907, when prices went soaring in anticipation of the panic which came in the fall of that year. The figures for December 1 last were below the previous high record of 1907, but the continuous upward movement of prices in the last month of 1909 had established a new high-water mark by January 1.

The figures compiled by Bradstreet's are known as "index numbers." They are based on actual wholesale quotations per pound for the commodities in question, which, to make them comprehensive, are averaged over a wide area of market. It is said that the index number for January 1, 1910, was \$9.210, it means that a man buying at wholesale one pound each of ninety-six commodities on that date would have to pay that sum as a total. No attempt is made to compute retail prices because of the wide fluctuations.

Surpasses Previous Mark.
The new "number" surpasses the previous high record of March 1, 1907, \$9.1233 by 1.1 per cent. This ratio also measures the advance that was made on the ninety-six commodities in the month of December last. At the same time the present index number reflects a gain of 1.17 over January 1, 1909, which means that the prices of the ninety-six articles rose approximately 97 cents within a year's time. The lowest point for commodities prices for which Bradstreet's have any record was touched on July 1, 1898, when the index number was \$7.7019. The latest figure shows a gain of more than \$1.

(Continued on Second Page.)

Having Domestic Trouble



SENATOR BEN. R. TILLMAN.

REPUBLICAN HEADS KNOCKED TOGETHER

President Taft Is Hammering
Peace Into Ranks of Dominant Party.

SHOWING MUCH ADROITNESS

By Avoiding Factionalism He
Has Chances of Getting
Measures Through.

Washington, D. C., January 23.—Activity such as has seldom, if ever, before, been displayed by committees so early in the first regular session of a Congress, is now in evidence in both wings of the Capitol. Although there are practically three parties—the "regular" Republicans, the "insurgent" Republicans and the Democrats—maneuvering for political advantage, there are signs on every hand that President Taft by steering his characteristic "middle-of-the-road" course, is daily gaining supporters for his legislative program.

The skill shown by the President in avoiding clashes with either faction of the ruling party, and the knack he has exhibited in compelling the aid of both in his fight for the redemption of party pledges have noticeably impressed the Democratic minority. In the House there are indications that the threatened fusion of Democrats and insurgent Republicans on several legislative questions is now little feared by the majority.

"Taft is trying to beat the Democrats out of any prospect of controlling the next House," remarked a prominent Democratic leader of the Senate yesterday, speaking frankly to his colleagues of both parties in a committee session considering an administration bill.

Knocking Heads Together.
"If it were not for the way he is knocking Republican heads together and making them fall into line for advanced legislation—Democratic legislation, if you please—we would get you fellows sure," predicted this minority leader addressing the Republicans present.

The Senator was talking to men who had just agreed upon the principal of a piece of Western legislation that admitted the President's proposal at heart. The incident furnishes a good illustration of the present congressional situation.

Committees are now considering subjects usually postponed until after appropriation bills are passed by the House. The Senate committees, under pressure from the White House, have laid plans to take up administration measures while the House has supply bills under consideration.

Senate leaders who have gone to the White House have been told that it is not necessary to wait for action by the House in matters designed to carry out Republican pledges. Those who have been inclined to stay away from the White House have been sent for, or the warning has been delivered to them by their colleagues.

It is regarded as highly probable that the President's proposed railroad legislation will be enacted at the present session, regardless of the fact that bills on the same subject and somewhat opposed to the Taft bill have been introduced in the Senate by Mr. Cummins, and in the House by Mr. Mann. There may be some Democratic opposition to certain features of the administration bill. Mr. Tillman believes the proposition to allow railroads under certain conditions to make joint rates amounts to pooling. Railroad bills will be taken up by the House Committee on Thursday.

Hard Steadfast.
The President's Federal Incorporation bill is expected to have the hardest sledding of any measure in his legislative program. Land bills and measures designed to carry on the work of conserving natural resources will receive careful attention at the present session, regardless of probable extension into next summer of the investigation of the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy.

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GOES INTO COURT FOR HER CHILDREN

Mrs. Ben Tillman, Jr.,
Will Bring Habeas
Corpus Proceedings.

NOW IN CUSTODY OF THE SENATOR

Sensational Legal Controversy
Is Anticipated as Result of
Family Differences—Children
Are Taken From
Mother and Deeded to
Their Grandparents.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Columbia, S. C., January 23.—In the Supreme Court to-morrow morning Lucy Dugas Tillman, wife of B. R. Tillman, Jr., will bring habeas corpus proceedings for the recovery of her children—Douschka and Sarah. It is entirely probable that there will follow one of the most interesting legal controversies in the history of the State. Mrs. Tillman brings the action against her husband's parents, Senator B. R. Tillman and his wife, who are now in possession of the children. Her attorneys refuse to give out any information, not that they oppose publicity, but because they wish the records to be presented in court before any newspaper publication.

Mrs. Tillman, who, since her alleged desertion, has been making her home in this city with her nearest of kin, Dr. Francis W. Pickens Butler, to-night gave out a statement which, she says, will be sustained by the affidavits submitted by her attorneys.

Granddaughter of Governor.
Mrs. Tillman is the granddaughter of F. W. Pickens, war Governor of S. C., and minister to Russia under President Buchanan. To Governor and Mrs. Pickens was born, in St. Petersburg, in the Romanoff Palace of the Czar, a girl baby, for whom the Czarinia sought godmother, and she was called Douschka, meaning "darling."

This woman, afterwards beloved by the people of South Carolina, married Dr. Dugas of Augusta, Ga., the father of Mrs. Tillman. The Pickens family had long been among the most influential in the State, and was placed among the "aristocracy" of the South when he got into politics, boasted that he was a "Wolf Hat." Some surprise was expressed therefore when he married a girl of the name of Douschka, Cavalier and Covenantant, were married in December, 1902. It was declared to be a match of no ordinary character, owing to the fact that just a fortnight before Wallace Sheppard, son of Ben Tillman's most marked opponent in politics and power, married the only sister of Mrs. Ben Tillman, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Tillman parted November 23, 1908. Just why is not announced officially, but Mrs. Tillman states that her husband drank to excess and gambled, and that in February 26 of last year, after a separation of three months, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Tillman, Jr., began an understanding which was believed to mark a happy ending of the quarrel. But in December, 1909, Mrs. Tillman had a sudden and desperate illness. Her husband, she declares, did not nurse her for her and showed her no attentions. On the first day of her convalescence he came to the apartments to take the child and grandmother, but Mrs. Tillman protested, and had to be forced to go. Mrs. Tillman has not seen them since that day, which was December 15. In the afternoon Mr. Tillman came back without them. He told his wife that she had been deceived, and that the children and had gone to South Carolina with them.

Children Deeded Away.
A few days after their departure Mrs. Tillman was informed by attorneys for Senator Tillman that the father of the children had made and recorded a regular deed, in which the custody of the children is given to the grandparents, and that the deed was filed with the clerk of court at Edgefield, shows that young Tillman, after alleging his wife's inability to raise the children, had admitted that he is also unwilling to assume the responsibility.

The government lawyers have been getting affidavits from the best citizens of Edgefield to show that she is a loving and painstaking mother, and that she is financially responsible, having a plantation which brings an annual rental of over \$1,000. The affidavits will declare that the mother is far more suited to raise the children than their grandparents, who are away from home half the time. Startling developments are reported in the affidavits submitted to the court are anticipated.

Mrs. Tillman is named for her grandchild, which is the name of a belle of the Virginia fashionable summer resorts before the war, who, in her loyalty to the revolutionists, had through the war as the Holcomb Legion. She is said to have been the mother of the belle of the South, Douschka, who was a belle in South Carolina after the war. Of the once prominent family only the two daughters remain. Mrs. Sheppard and Mrs. Tillman. The late General M. C. Butler was an uncle of Mrs. Tillman, and his too, was the most political opponent of Senator Tillman in the sensational campaign for the United States Senate in 1874.

WILD RUMORS CURRENT

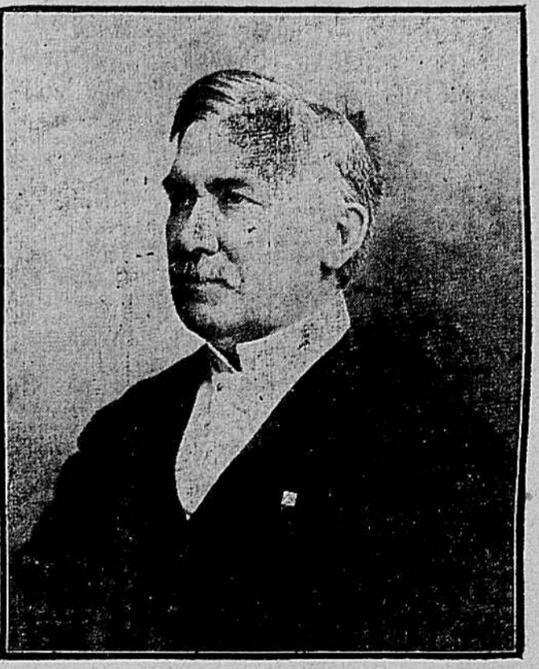
Conservative Insurrection Against
Managua, Nicaragua Is On.
Managua, Nicaragua, January 23.—The advance guard of the revolutionary army, 600 strong, engaged the government outposts to-day at La Libertad, fourteen miles north of Managua.

The government forces, 1,500 strong, under command of General Narciso Arguello, opened fire on the revolutionists, who were retreating in a panic. They retired after forty-five minutes, on finding themselves badly outnumbered and lacking in artillery.

There were no casualties on the government side.

Managua, Nicaragua, January 23.—The arrest of conservatives, alleged to be involved in a movement against the Managua government, continues. The wildest rumors are current. One report is the capture of the steamer Victoria by the revolutionists on Lake Nicaragua. Another has it that General Vasquez has gone over to the revolutionists, but this is declared by the government to be absurd.

To Settle State Debt Case



MAJOR WILLIAM A. ANDERSON.

DISASTER TO PARIS BROUGHT BY FLOOD

Many Parts of France Ravaged
by the High
Waters.

HUNDREDS ARE HOMELESS

Villages Are Submerged, Only
Their Roofs Showing
Above Surface.

Paris, January 23.—The floods to-night exceeded all records, and are fast assuming the proportions of a national disaster. In the north, east and west hundreds are homeless and ruined. Although it is impossible at the present time to estimate the damage it will be very great.

The rise in the waters continued during all of to-day. At Paris, the Seine, which registered 6.43 metres yesterday, had reached 7.40 at noon to-day. The normal height of the river at this season is 2.48. The torrent almost touched the arches of the Pont de la Concorde, and threatening their destruction. The Pont de l'Alma is in momentary danger, and is guarded by police.

A dispatch from Chalons-sur-Marne says that a huge volume of water is sweeping downstream towards Paris. Mr. Lepine, prefect of Paris, after a visit of inspection in an automobile this afternoon, took the gravest view of the situation.

One of the water mains, serving five of the most populous arrondissements in the south and east of the city, burst to-night, and threatening their destruction. The flood is invading the pumping stations, and the compressed air factory, which supplies the elevators in Paris, has also been forced to shut down.

Threatened by Sewers.
One of the great dangers which pump the sewerage in the eastern section of Paris broke down on account of the flood, and as a result the sewers threaten to overflow the streets. Several quarters are without electric light, and all the trolley lines to the eastern suburbs are out of commission.

The officials of the prefecture are busy providing for the homeless, but they are finding great difficulty in securing shelter. A considerable number of houses have sunk in the soft mud and water, and on the Boulevard of St. Germain a house under construction is tottering and threatening to fall on the Chamber of Deputies.

SCHOONER A WRECK

Big Six-Master Goes on Rocks, Crew
Died.
Edgartown, Mass., January 23.—The schooner Merville B. Crowley, one of the six-masters flying the American flag, was wrecked on the reefs three miles off the south-east end of Martha's Vineyard Island, Nantucket, during the past week, principally for Boston with coal when the disaster overtook her.

The schooner was on the rocks at 5:30 this morning. The wreck was due to the mistake of the man at the wheel in making out Edgartown light as that on Block Island.

Thousands Die of Smallpox.
Angey, China, January 23.—Native reports estimate that 1,000 deaths from smallpox have occurred at Chang Chow, one of the largest cities in China, during the past week, principally among children. The bubonic plague is also reported to have broken out again at that place.

STATE TO RETAIN ANDERSON BY SPECIAL ACT

Retiring Attorney-General
Engaged to Fight
Debt Case to End.

GOVERNOR AND OTHERS URGE IT

Legislature Preparing to Confer
High Honor on Expert Who
Has Given Close Study to
Virginia-West Virginia
Litigation for Past
Eight Years.

Although his term of office will expire on February 1, Major William A. Anderson, for the past eight years the distinguished Attorney-General of Virginia, will continue to represent the State as special counsel until the final settlement of the Virginia-West Virginia debt litigation in the United States Supreme Court.

Governor Swanson, Attorney-General-Elect Williams and members of the State Commission have strongly urged the retention of Major Anderson, who has given six or eight years to the close study of the case. In order, however, to make this request effective, a special act will be passed by the General Assembly, probably this week.

The honor comes to Major Anderson without the seeking on his part. Indeed, the unanimous petition that he fight the matter to the end is a tribute to one who has mastered every detail, and who is thoroughly equipped to represent the interests of the State.

All See Wisdom of Plan.
In the same way, the employment of a special attorney is not to be regarded in the least as a reflection upon the incoming Attorney-General, who realizes that it would be difficult in the extreme to pick up the threads at this late day and enter a contest with brilliant lawyers, who have studied it for years along with Major Anderson.

The wisdom of this course, it is explained, has been recognized by practically the entire Assembly. It is impossible, of course, to predict just when a final decision in the case can be reached. The incoming Congressman, Chester E. Littlefield, has a special master appointed by the United States Supreme Court, has heard all of the testimony. His report may be filed in Washington within the next thirty days, after which it will be the duty of the Legislature to act.

Millions Are Involved.
With millions of dollars involved, it is important that the Commonwealth contest every possible point, legitimately, which Major Anderson is prepared to do. The question is little understood by laymen or the public generally, but to lawyers familiar with it the matter is one of tremendous importance.

Because of his familiarity with the litigation, Major Anderson was urged more than a year ago to stand for a third term, though he declined, notwithstanding pressure which was brought to bear upon him from all sides.

He said then that other lawyers could handle the debt case and do the job just as well as he could do it, but a different view was taken by Mr. Williams, Governor Swanson, the Debt Commission and members of the Legislature, the result of which is that a law will be passed at this session by which the State will have everything to gain, inasmuch as the lawyer who first worked up the Virginia end will be hard at work at the finish.

Major Anderson's Big Work.
Friends of Major Anderson, in discussing the situation yesterday, expressed the opinion that it was the most natural thing in the world that he should desire to retire from office after the most strenuous eight years in the history of the office. Coming in right after the adoption of the new Constitution, when the State party undertook to nullify the suffrage clause, the Attorney-General had the legal right of his life. How well he succeeded may be understood by the fact that the document, as adopted, still stands intact. That contest alone was memorable. Major Anderson had to defend the existence of the State Corporation Commission, its rate-making powers and the rates themselves, all of which were won and adjusted in a manner satisfactory to the people and creditable to the lawyer. There will be the debt litigation, the hardest possible work, though in the meantime he was fighting for or defending other laws and other cases. His record is regarded as the most remarkable of men during this or the preceding administration.

Eara Kendall Dead.
Cleveland, O., January 23.—Eara Kendall, the comedian, died of appendicitis to-day in a sanatorium at Martinsville, Ind.

Kendall closed his season in "The Vinegar Buyer" at Seattle three weeks ago because of ill health. It completed his twenty-ninth season on the stage. He was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, forty-nine years ago. He is survived by a wife and six children.

May Save His Eye.
Indianapolis, Ind., January 23.—The possibility of saving the right eye of Thomas Taggart, who was wounded by a charge of bird shot while hunting near Natchez, Miss., on Friday, was established to-day, after an X-ray examination proved there were no shot or wounds in the vital portions of the eye. Mr. Taggart arrived home to-day.

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